

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-36 (canceled).

37. (Previously Presented) A method for recording at least one of video data and audio data generated by a capturing device having a data memory, comprising:

connecting the data memory of the capturing device to at least one recording device that has a greater storage capacity than the data memory of the capturing device;

exchanging data between the data memory of the capturing device and the at least one recording device, whereby a virtual data memory is formed for the capturing device by operational association between the data memory of the capturing device and the at least one recording device;

at the capturing device, receiving a request from a user to access the exchanged data, wherein the request does not differentiate between data stored on the data memory of the capturing device and data stored on the virtual data memory; and

responsive to the request, retrieving the exchanged data stored on the virtual data memory, the retrieving occurring at the capturing device.

38. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 37, wherein the data memory of the capturing device is a local data memory.

39. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 38, wherein the at least one recording device forms a central data memory.

40. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 39, wherein the capturing device is interconnected with a digital communication network.

41. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 40, wherein the at least one recording device is interconnected with the digital network.

42. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 41, wherein reading-out of data from the data memory of the capturing device for transmission to the at least one recording device is operationally dependent on input of new data into the data memory of the capturing device.

43. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 42, wherein the new data input into the data memory of the capturing device are more current in time than the data read out from the data memory of the capturing device.

44. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 42, wherein the reading-out of data from the data memory of the capturing device for transmission includes copying of the data from the data memory of the capturing device.

45. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 43, wherein the data transmitted from the data memory of the capturing device are received by the at least one recording device and stored.

46. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 43, wherein during the input of new data into the data memory of the capturing device, older data are read out from the data memory of the capturing device for transmission.

47. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 46, wherein the new data are input into the data memory of the capturing device at a substantially the same rate as a rate of reading out the data from the data memory of the capturing device.

48. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 47, wherein the data are continually read out from the data memory of the capturing device.

49. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 46, wherein the data are read out from the data memory of the capturing device at specified time intervals.

50. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 49, wherein the data are read out from the data memory of the capturing device at a rate higher rate than a rate of input of the new data into the data memory of the capturing device.

51. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 49, wherein the data are read out from the data memory of the capturing device when a specified threshold is reached.

52. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 51, wherein the specified threshold is determined by the storage capacity of the data memory of the capturing device.

53. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 52, wherein storing of data in the data memory of the capturing device provides a buffer function for data transmission to the at least one recording device.

54. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 53, wherein the data read out from the data memory of the capturing device and successfully transmitted to the at least one recording device are deleted from the data memory of the capturing device after the successful transmission.

55. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 53, wherein the at least one recording device that receives the transmitted data from the data memory of the capturing device checks the transmitted data for intactness.

56. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 55, wherein, if the data from the data memory of the capturing device have been transmitted to the at least one recording device intact, the at least one recording device sends a notification of the intactness of the transmitted data to the capturing device.

57. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 56, wherein, upon receipt of the notification of the intactness of the transmitted data, the capturing device deletes the transmitted data from the data memory of the capturing device.

58. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 54, wherein the at least one recording device has a plurality of different storage areas that correspond to a plurality of different data recording time durations.

59. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 58, wherein the plurality of different storage areas are each reserved for a specified data recording time duration.

60. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 58, wherein the plurality of different storage areas are allocated to corresponding one of: a) a plurality of different capturing devices; and b) a plurality of different capturing units of a capturing device.

61. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 58, wherein the plurality of different storage areas are allocated to different specified data recording time durations.

62. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 58, wherein the data memory of the capturing device has a data storage capacity corresponding to a specified time duration of data accrual.

63. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 62, wherein data are transmitted from the data memory of the capturing device to the at least one recording device when a specified time limit threshold for data accrual in the data memory of the capturing device is exceeded.

64. (Previously Presented) A data capturing device for at least one of video and audio data, comprising:

- a data memory for storing at least one of video and audio data;

- a control device for the data memory; and

- an interface unit for facilitating communication with at least one central recording device, wherein data are transmitted via the interface unit to the at least one central recording device;

wherein reading-out of data from the data memory for transmission to the at least one central recording device is operationally dependent on input of new data into the data memory, and whereby a virtual data memory is formed for the capturing device by operational association between the data memory and the at least one central recording device, the interface unit being configured to retrieve the transmitted data from the at least one central recording device in response to a request from a user to access the transmitted data, wherein the request does not differentiate between data stored on the data memory and data stored on the at least one central recording device.

65. (Previously Presented) The data capturing device as recited in claim 64, wherein the reading-out of data from the data memory for transmission includes copying of data from the data memory by the control device.

66. (Previously Presented) The data capturing device as recited in claim 65, wherein data are continually read out from the data memory by the control device for transmission.

67. (Previously Presented) The data capturing device as recited in claim 65, wherein data are read out at specified time intervals from the data memory by the control device for transmission.

68. (Previously Presented) The data capturing device as recited in claim 65, wherein, if the data from the data memory have been transmitted to the at least one central recording device intact, the at least one central recording device sends a notification of the intactness of the transmitted data to the control device.

69. (Previously Presented) The data capturing device as recited in claim 68, wherein, upon receipt of the notification of the intactness of the transmitted data, the control device deletes the transmitted data from the data memory.

70. (Previously Presented) The data capturing device as recited in claim 69, further comprising:

at least one of a camera for generating the video data and a microphone for generating the audio data.

71. (Previously Presented) The data capturing device as recited in claims 69, wherein the interface unit is for interfacing a digital network, whereby data are transmitted on the digital network to the at least one central recording device that is interconnected with the digital network.

72. (Previously Presented) A recording system for capturing and storing at least one of video and audio data, comprising:

at least one central recording device; and
a data capturing device including:

a data memory for storing at least one of video and audio data;
a control device for the data memory; and
an interface unit for facilitating interface with at the least one central recording device, wherein data are transmitted via the interface unit to the at least one central recording device;

wherein reading-out of data from the data memory of the data capturing device for transmission to the at least one central recording device is operationally dependent on input of new data into the data memory of the data capturing device, and whereby a virtual data memory is formed for the capturing device by operational association between the data memory of the capturing device and the at least one central recording device;

wherein, if the data from the data memory of the data capturing device have been transmitted to the at least one central recording device intact, the at least one central recording device sends a notification of the intactness of the transmitted data to the data capturing device, and wherein, upon receipt of the notification of the intactness of the transmitted data, the data capturing device deletes the transmitted data from the data memory, the interface unit being configured to retrieve the transmitted data from the at least one central recording device in response to a request from a user to access the transmitted data, wherein the request does not differentiate between data stored on the data memory and data stored on the at least one central recording device.